

1 SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 25

2 **48TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2007**

3 INTRODUCED BY

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10 A JOINT MEMORIAL

11 ENCOURAGING USE OF EFFICIENT AND SAFE VACCINES FOR NEW MEXICO  
12 CHILDREN.

13  
14 WHEREAS, the New Mexico legislature is committed to  
15 protecting the health of New Mexico's children and finds that  
16 effective and safe vaccines are essential to meet this goal;  
17 and

18 WHEREAS, based on a review of scientific literature, the  
19 clinical prevention initiative immunization workgroup, a joint  
20 effort of the New Mexico department of health and the New  
21 Mexico medical society has concluded that the influenza vaccine  
22 currently in use is safe and effective for use in children; and

23 WHEREAS, the clinical prevention initiative childhood  
24 immunization workgroup has also determined that it is important  
25 to reduce children's exposure to mercury whenever possible,

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1 including in vaccines; and

2 WHEREAS, this reduction in the mercury content of vaccines  
3 has already occurred for all other routine childhood vaccines,  
4 including influenza vaccine for children younger than three  
5 years of age; and

6 WHEREAS, ensuring an adequate supply of influenza vaccine  
7 to New Mexico's health care providers is important to protect  
8 New Mexico's children and adults from serious illness and death  
9 due to influenza; and

10 WHEREAS, establishing a preference for influenza vaccine  
11 that is thimerosal-free or contains only trace amounts of  
12 thimerosal for pregnant women and children younger than eight  
13 years of age follows the national precedent established when  
14 thimerosal was removed or reduced from all other childhood  
15 vaccines;

16 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE  
17 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the New Mexico legislature remain  
18 committed to achieving the goal of providing all recommended  
19 immunizations to one hundred percent of New Mexico's children;  
20 and

21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the New Mexico legislature  
22 recognize and support the efforts of the department of health,  
23 the New Mexico medical society, the New Mexico pediatric  
24 society, the New Mexico immunization coalition and other health  
25 care providers and organizations to increase immunization rates

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1 among persons who are recommended to receive influenza  
2 immunization, using all licensed vaccines, with preference  
3 given to vaccines containing no more than trace amounts of  
4 mercury; and

5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the New Mexico legislature  
6 support the policy of the department of health to purchase,  
7 preferentially, influenza vaccine that is thimerosal-free or  
8 contains only trace amounts of thimerosal for use for pregnant  
9 women and young children, provided that the supply of influenza  
10 vaccine to health care providers is not impeded by the exercise  
11 of this preference; and

12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the New Mexico legislature  
13 support the efforts of the department of health, the New Mexico  
14 medical society and others to encourage the production and use  
15 of influenza vaccines containing no more than trace amounts of  
16 mercury, especially for young children and pregnant women; and

17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the secretary of health be  
18 directed to introduce a resolution to the association of state  
19 and territorial health officers that calls for vaccine  
20 manufacturers to move toward producing vaccine that contains no  
21 mercury preservative; and

22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the New Mexico legislature  
23 convey to the United States food and drug administration its  
24 position that adequate supplies of influenza vaccines containing  
25 no more than trace amounts of mercury be produced for young

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1 children and pregnant women as a step toward the goal of  
2 removing mercury from all vaccines; and

3 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be  
4 transmitted to the New Mexico congressional delegation and to  
5 the governor.

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